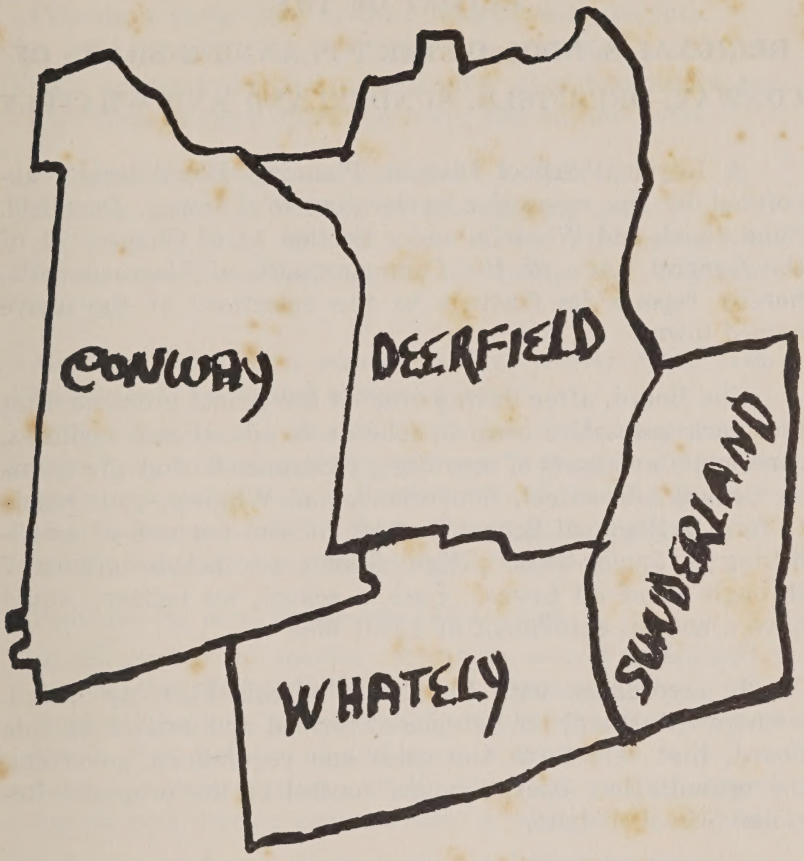
WHATELY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.
WHATELY, MASS. 01093

REPORT

of the

Regional School District Planning Board

October 1, 1954



REPORT

of the

Regional School District Planning Board

October 1, 1954

REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD OF CONWAY, DEERFIELD, SUNDERLAND AND WHATELY

A Regional School District Planning Board legally appointed by the respective moderators of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately, under Section 14 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby reports its findings to the selectmen of the above named towns.

The Board, after having studied the school problems that face each respective town in relation to educational facilities, curriculum and costs of operation, recommends that the towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately, join hands to form a Regional School District for the purpose of establishing a Junior-Senior High School to include grades 7 through 12 of all towns. Such a school, we believe, would have a normal enrollment of about 600.

In accordance with the duties of this Planning Board, we herewith submit an agreement formed and written by this Board, that sets forth the rules and regulations governing the organization, operation and control of the proposed Regional School District.

The Board, within the agreement, provides for the free leasing of Deerfield High School facilities to the Region for economy's sake, necessitating the planned construction of an additional 10 general purpose classrooms and 10 special purpose classrooms for an estimated gross cost of $750,000.00, inclusive of architects fees.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SUCH A REGIONAL SCHOOL ARE:

1. **Help solve our elementary school housing problem.** By consolidation of the 7th and 8th grades in a Regional School, the housing problem in Conway, Sunderland and Whately would be solved and Deerfield's problem tremendously reduced.

2. **Provide a better and broader educational program.**
   It will enable the towns to offer more and varied curricula, both academically and vocationally, at substantially less cost than present operating costs and tuition rates.

3. **A regional school more economical to build.**
   A State grant of 39.98% of the building costs, plus co-operative sharing by the four towns, will provide for better educational facilities for less money than any other method.

4. **Member towns of a region receive greater State reimbursements for school operating costs.**
   In addition to the 39.98% State grant for construction, each town will receive 15% increase in State Aid for local school operating costs and 100% reimbursement for costs of school transportation to the Regional School and 100% reimbursement of regional planning costs.

5. **Provides for local ownership and control.**
   It will enable the member towns to control school policy and administration through their representatives on the Regional School Committee. It is abolishes tuition payments that help build and operate schools in which we have no representation. It eliminates the need of depending on neighboring communities to educate our children.

6. **Provides for better trained and specialized teachers.**
   We will be able to hold our teachers and attract new teachers of excellent training and experience, because we can utilize specialized talent while paying them more to work in modern, ideal facilities.

7. **A regional school is more economical to operate than small local schools.**
   The per pupil operating cost will be considerable less than present operating costs and tuition rates. At the same time the school will offer a broader range of education and provide for an increase in teachers pay schedule.

8. **A Regional school fulfills our obligations.**
   It enables us to give to all our children a better education in modern facilities, to enable them to compete on even terms with children from larger schools.

We owe to our children the opportunities such a school will provide, while at the same time providing a better and broader educational curriculum for less money than any other method.

Signed—

George E. Bell, Jr., Chairman, Deerfield
Constance G. Rodriguez, Secretary, Whately
Raymond S. Totman, Conway
Lyman Graves, Conway
Erwin T. Weston, Conway
Clarence Clark, Sunderland
William L. Hubbard, Sunderland
Joseph Sadowski, Sunderland
William Sadoski, Deerfield
Charles Pielock, Whately
F. Lyndon Scott, Whately

TO THE CITIZENS OF CONWAY

Of specific interest to Conway citizens is the following balance sheet inserted in an attempt to show how the Regional School would affect the town from a financial standpoint for the first year of operation. It should be noted that in subsequent years interest charges will decrease.

Savings & Add'l. Income		Expenditures	
1 teacher	$3,600.00	Operating Cost	$19,920.00
15% add'l. reimbursement Chapter 70	1,576.00	Capital Cost &Int. first year	3,554.00
Add'l. reimbursement transportation	621.00	Total	23,474.00
High School tuition	15,138.00	Less Savings	21,135.00
Janitor at Town Hall	200.00		
		Net cost to town	2,339.00
Total	$21,135.00		

A review of the proposed Regional curriculum will indicate studies and programs which could not be offered by a small school. Conway, by joining forces with neighboring towns, is able to offer educational facilities on a par with large communities. By so doing we also alleviate the need for additional classroom space in Conway in the foreseeable future. Collectively, Conway citizens will have an equity in; and be assured of; adequate secondary school facilities without depending on other towns.

Of vast importance is the inclusion of grades 7 and 8 in the proposed Region. The transition from elementary to secondary levels is thereby bridged by a program integrated into the over-all secondary schooling program, including physical education, athletics, music, etc. Obviously our youngsters will be better prepared for high school work.

Your Regional Study Board wishes to thank those who have come forward with helpful suggestions and criticisms, along with a special vote of thanks to representatives from the other towns with whom we have worked and studied through the past months.

Your Board earnestly endorses the Regional School plan as set forth in this brechure.

Signed—

Erwin Weston
Raymond S. Totman
Lyman Graves

DEERFIELD REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Deerfield residents face a tremendous school housing problem that is rapidly approaching a critical stage demanding some section.

This is evidenced by the fact that September, 1954, sees the Old Deerfield Grammar School housing 163 students in 7 rooms and the So. Deerfield Grammar School housing 243 students in 9 rooms, with the saturation point already reached and the gross enrollment increasing each year.

Although, Deerfield High School has an enrollment of only 162, including 54 tuition pupils, it is also housing an 8th grade of 25 pupils. Very, very soon now, probably inside of three years, Deerfield must cease accepting tuition students in its High School in order to adequately house our own children.

Deerfield's alternatives are these:

1. To conduct Deerfield's schools on a double session basis.
2. To expand all three school buildings at a tremendous cost, with Deerfield bearing approximately 72% of that cost, IF the projects are approved for State grants.
3. To build an entirely new school, again at a tremendous cost, with Deerfield paying 72% of the cost IF approved.
4. That Deerfield join with neighboring communities of Conway, Sunderland, and Whately to form a Regional School District for the purpose of establishing a Regional Junior-Senior High School.

We, the committee, strongly urge that Deerfield voters support the proposal to form a Region for the following reasons:

1. A Regional High School construction program will make a tremendous forward stride in solving our housing problem and at the same time substantially improve and expand educational opportunities for all our children.

2. A Regional High School will make it possible to present a broader educational curriculum for the benefit of our children. Deerfield could never afford to offer a comparable curriculum.

3. A Regional High School will save the Deerfield taxpayer money in comparison to any other alternate solution.

4. A Regional High School will save Deerfield a tremendous amount of money in annual operating costs per pupil, over a period of 20 years.

5. A Regional High School will reduce and postpone the need for added space in the elementary schools.

6. A Regional High School requires that, Deerfield contribute 32% of the total gross cost as against 72% for local construction.

7. A Regional High School will make Deerfield a partner with Conway, Sunderland and Whately in the ownership and operation of a High School for our area children. Without a Regional High School, Deerfield will face the future standing alone.

We sincerely believe that for the best interests of the town of Deerfield—

Economically for its taxpayers—present and future;

Educationally for its childrens—present and future;

Educationally for its youth and adults—present and future

that it is extremely important for Deerfield citizens to vote "Yes" on the Regional proposal.

Signed—

George E. Bell, Jr.

William Sadoski

TO THE VOTERS OF SUNDERLAND

The Sunderland members of this Regional High School Planning Board recommend acceptance of the proposed plan for several reasons which will be discussed here briefly.

At the outset, it is apparent that under a six-grade Regional School setup, many academic advantages could be realized. By transferring the seventh and eighth grades to a Regional School, the pupils in these grades would have the advantage of broader training in a departmentalized system. For all students, the offerings would be broader under the proposed system, particularly in the field of vocational education.

The second major reason for favoring this plan is one of space. By moving the seventh and eighth grades to a new school, two rooms would be released in our school for local needs, and as you know at the present time all of the rooms in the Sunderland Grammar School are being used. The next few years will reveal an over-crowded condition in our local school, and by moving two grades to So. Deerfield, additional building on the local level should not be necessary.

Under a regional system Sunderland would have a direct voice in the running of the school. This situation does not exist on the secondary level in Sunderland, since all students have been sent as tuition pupils.

Financially this plan appears to be very feasible. A diligent study of costs has led us to the conclusion that under no other situation could we get, "so much for so little". A study of construction and operating costs elsewhere in the brochure will bear out this statement.

For these reasons we feel that the voters in the town of Sunderland should react favorably to this proposal. We feel that the creation of a new school should give us a chance to provide the kind of educational opportunity that we all want for our children at a cost which is favorable to our financial interests.

Signed—

Clarence F. Clark
Joseph R. Sadowski
William L. Hubbard

WHATELYITES NEED REGIONAL SCHOOL

Whately is faded with the problem of a rapidly increasing school population and school buildings inadequate to its needs.

The town now sends its grade 9-12 pupils out of town on a tuition basis. The cost broken down on the 53-54 figures on per pupil costs are as follows:

	Approx.	Year Tuition	Per Week	Week in Year
Northampton				
High School	15	$275.	$7.05	39
Deerfield				
High School	28	247.	6.50	38
Smith's				
Vocational School	7	175.	4.73	37

The per pupil cost for the Regional School would be considerably less than the above figures. Paying tuition to another town is taxation without representation, in that we have no voice in the conduct of our children's school.

The undesirable practice of teaching two elementary grades under one teacher could no doubt be eliminated by the construction of a six grade high school. By joining the Region and including the Junior High in it, would mean eliminating at least one teacher. It could also mean disposing of one school and consolidating six grades in one building, thereby cutting costs of fuel, janitor expense, repairs and replacements and miscellaneous operating expense.

The Regional High School will provide for our children the most modern educational facilities and a broad curriculum adapted to the requirements of each child. All this at a reasonable cost figure that Whately can't afford to miss!

Signed—

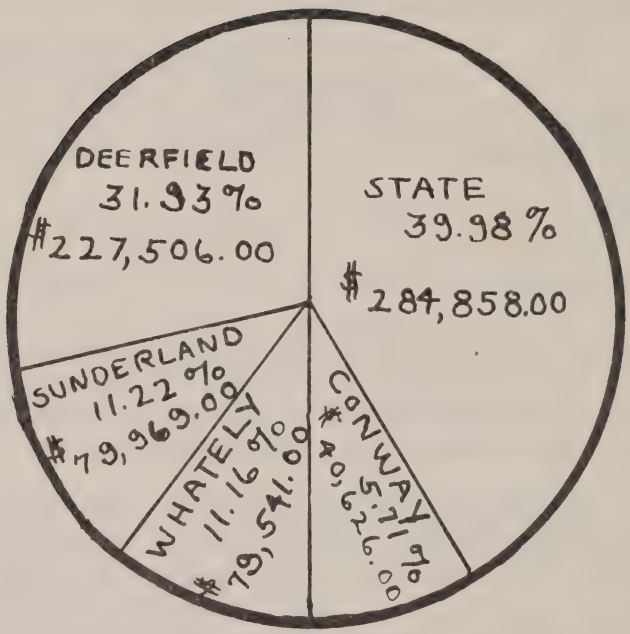
Constance G. Rodriguez

F. Lyndon Scott

Charles Pielock

COSTS

$712,500.00



TAX INCREASE FOR CONSTRUCTION PAYMENTS

	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately
First Year	$1.73	2.82	3.56	4.97
Average	1.10	2.10	2.73	3.85
Last Year	.47	1.37	1.90	2.73

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND TAX IMPACT ON MEMBER TOWNS

Gross Cost	$750,000.00
Planning Fees, State Reimbursed	37,500.00
Adjusted Cost	712,500.00
State Grant at 39.98%	284,858.00
Region Net Construction Costs	427,642.00

MEMBER TOWNS NET COST

Conway	9.5%	40,626.00
Deerfield	53.2%	227,506.00
Sunderland	18.7%	79,969.00
Whately	18.6%	79,541.00
		427,642.00

ADDITION ANNUAL STATE REIMBURSEMENTS TO MEMBER TOWNS OF A REGION

	Chap. 70 1954 Reimbursement	Additional 15%
Conway	10,503.80	1,576.00
Deerfield	27,393.50	4,109.00
Sunderland	5,836.02	875.00
Whately	4,491.00	674.00

FIRST YEAR COSTS OF REGION

Principal payment 1/20 of 427,642 equals	$21,382.00
Interest at 2¼ of 712,500 equals	16,031.00
First year payment by region equals	37,413.00

FIRST YEAR PAYMENTS OF TOWNS

Conway 9.5%	$3,554.00	less	$1,576.00	equals	$1,978.00
Deerfield 53.2%	19,904.00	less	4,109.00	equals	15,795.00
Sunderland 18.7%	6,996.00	less	875.00	equals	6,121.00
Whately 18.6%	6,959.00	less	674.00	equals	6,285.00

SCHEDULE OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS OF BOND ISSUE:

	Conway	Tax	Deerfield	Tax	Sunderland	Tax	Whately	Tax
1st year	1,978.00	1.73	15,975.00	2.82	6,121.00	3.56	6,285.00	4.97
2nd year	1,902.00	1.67	15,369.00	2.74	5,971.00	3.47	6,136.00	4.85
3d year	1,826.00	1.60	14,942.00	2.67	5,821.00	3.38	5,987.00	4.74
4th year	1,750.00	1.53	14,515.00	2.59	5,671.00	3.30	5,838.00	4.62
5th year	1,673.00	1.47	14,089.00	2.52	5,521.00	3.21	5,689.00	4.50
6th year	1,597.00	1.40	13,662.00	2.44	5,371.00	3.12	5,539.00	4.38
7th year	1,521.00	1.33	13,236.00	2.36	5,222.00	3.03	5,390.00	4.26
8th year	1,445.00	1.27	12,810.00	2.29	5,072.00	2.95	5,241.00	4.15
9th year	1,369.00	1.20	12,383.00	2.21	4,922.00	2.86	5,092.00	4.03
10th year	1,293.00	1.13	11,957.00	2.14	4,772.00	2.77	4,943.00	3.91
11th year	1,217.00	1.07	11,530.00	2.06	4,622.00	2.69	4,794.00	3.79
12th year	1,140.00	1.00	11,104.00	1.98	4,472.00	2.60	4,645.00	3.67
13th year	1,064.00	.93	10,677.00	1.91	4,322.00	2.51	4,496.00	3.56
14th year	988.00	.87	10,251.00	1.83	4,172.00	2.42	4,347.00	3.44
15th year	912.00	.80	9,825.00	1.75	4,023.00	2.34	4,198.00	3.32
16th year	836.00	.73	9,398.00	1.68	3,873.00	2.25	4,049.00	3.20
17th year	760.00	.67	8,972.00	1.60	3,723.00	2.16	3,900.00	3.08
18th year	683.00	.60	8,545.00	1.53	3,573.00	2.08	3,750.00	2.97
19th year	607.00	.53	8,119.00	1.45	3,423.00	1.99	3,601.00	2.85
20th year	531.00	.47	7,693.00	1.37	3,273.00	1.90	3,452.00	2.73

PROPOSED CURRICULUM

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade VII	Grade VIII
English	English
Reading and Literature	Reading and Literature
Arithmetic	Arithmetic
Social Studies (History, Geography, Current Events)	Social Studies (History, Geography, Current Events)
Penmanship	Penmanship
Spelling	Spelling
Gen. Science	Gen. Science
Hygiene	Hygiene
Physical Education	Physical Education
Music	Music
Art	Art
Guidance	Guidance
Manual Training	Manual Training
Home Economics	Home Economics

Listed as to General area of instruction. Course content properly differentiated for each grade level.

PROPOSED CURRICULUM

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grade IX	Grade X
English	English
Gen. Math.	Plane Geometry
Algebra I	Economic Geography
Civics	World History
Ancient History	Latin II
Latin I	French I
Ind. Business	Typing I
Gen. Science	General Typing I
*Machine Shop	Biology
*Agriculture	*Machine Shop
*Metal and Woodworking	*Agriculture
Manual Training	*Metal and Woodworking
*General Household Arts	General Shop
Physical Education & Health	*Clothing
General Art	Physical Education & Health
Music	Arts and Crafts
Group Guidance	Music
	Driver Education
	Group Guidance

Co-curricular activities during school hours will include, Band, Orchestra, Glee Club, and various other school clubs.
* Courses offered under State aided Vocational Program.

Grade XI	Grade XII
English	English
Speech and Dramatics	Public Speaking
Algebra II	Journalism
Bookkeeping I	Solid Geometry
Stenography I	Trigonometry
Typing II	Review Mathematics
Gen. Typing II	Political Science
American History	Problems in Democracy
Economics and Sociology	Bookkeeping II
Latin III	Stenography II
French II	Office Machines & Practice
Spanish I	Business Law and Salesmanship
Chemistry	French III
*Machine Shop	Spanish II
*Agriculture	Physics
*Metal and Woodworking	*Machine Shop
General Shop	*Agriculture
*Foods	*Metal and Woodworking
Physical Education & Health	General Shop
Art Appreciation	*Home and Family Care
Music	Physical Education & Health
Driver Education	Music Appreciation
Arts and Crafts	Driver Education
Individual Guidance	Arts and Crafts
	Individual Guidance

Co-curricular activities during school hours will include, Band, Orchestra, Glee Club, and various school clubs.

* Courses offered under State aided Vocational Program.

ESTIMATED OPERATING BUDGET 1956-1957

General Administration	$8,500.00
Instruction	82,500.00
Operation of School Plant	18,500.00
Maintenance	2,500.00
Auxiliary Services (Health, Athletics, etc.)	3,500.00
	$115,500.00

(Gross costs before State reimbursements)

ESTIMATED ENROLLMENT 1956-1957

	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Total
Conway	12	13	19	13	14	2	73
Deerfield	51	47	47	37	36	32	250
Sunderland	16	20	21	18	6	5	86
Whately	10	18	22	12	9	7	78
	89	98	109	80	65	46	487

ESTIMATED PER PUPIL OPERATING COST $238.00

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Who would control the Regional School?**

   A nine member school committee, composed of members from Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately.

2. **Does the State excersise any extra control over a Regional School because of the extra financial reimbursements?**

   No! The Regional District School Committee will have the same powers and duties as local school committees.

3. **Does the acceptance of the Regional School Article affect a member towns debt limit or require it to be changed?**

   No. The Regional School District borrows the money—the towns do not! The member towns are responsible only for their annual share of amortization interest and operating expenses.

4. **Is a Vocational Education Program included in this plan?**

   Yes! The estimated cost includes Vocational workshops for, Machine Shop; Metal & Woodworking; Manual Training; and Agriculture, together with a Household Arts Suite.

5. **How soon could such a Regional High School be available?**

   If a Regional School District is authorized by an affirmative vote now, the school in all probability would be ready for occupancy in September 1956.

6. **How will tax rate be affected by construction costs of the Regional High School?**

   In general, the average increase in tax rate will fall between $1.10 and $3.85. See detailed chart, page 10.

7. **What is the estimated annual operating cost per pupil?**

   The estimated gross cost before reimbursements, with a basic enrollment of 487 in 1956 is $238.00. It should remain steady or decrease as enrollment climbs.

8. **How does the estimated operating costs compare with current school operating costs?**

   Very materially lower. Present tuition rates at schools to which member towns send their High School children fall between $247 and $385.

9. **What long range effect will the Regional School have on taxes?**

Studies indicate that the tax dollar for school purposes will be utilized much more efficiently. Local school budgets will be required to finance only six grades. The savings per pupil, in the Regional School, could conceivably compensate for the cost of the school in less than twenty years.

10. **Will Chapter 70 reimbursements to member towns, on account of School operation costs, be based on only the six grades?**

No. Although the towns local school budget will have to finance only six grades. They will receive added credit for their 7th through 12th grades in the Regional School when Chapter 70 reimbursements are figured by the Commonwealth.

11. **Do the member towns have anything to say about the annual Regional School District budget?**

Yes. Before the Regional School Committee ratifies its annual budget, open hearings in each town must be conducted by the respective committee members of each town to present the contemplated budget for their town's opinion.

12. **What is the educational advantage of a Regional School for these member towns?**

A Regional School is able to offer a much broader curriculum for the benefit of all students than any town could possibly afford in a local school.

13. **Who will hire the teachers for the Regional School?**

The new Regional School Committee, composed of members from all four towns, will hire the teaching staff and administrators. Teachers presently employed and desiring positions in the Regional School will submit applications to the new committee.

14. **Will the pay schedule for teachers be higher than the present schedule?**

Yes. The estimated operating budget provides for a higher pay schedule.

15. **Who will benefit if a Regional School is built?**

Our children—who will enjoy a better and broader education.

We the taxpayers—who will save money taxwise, in the construction and operation of our school.

We the towns—who will jointly own and operate a modern efficiently operated High School and therefore appeal to new families as more attractive communities in which to live.

16. **Does the estimated cost include architects fees?**

The estimated cost of $750,000 includes all planning fees and these are 100% reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

17. **Why does the State reward member towns of a Region with increased reimbursements for operation of local schools?**

Because the more Regional Schools in the Commonwealth the fewer small inefficient High Schools, the State will be forced to subsidize—therefore, saving State tax money as well!

18. **Will transportation costs increase if we build a Regional School?**

No. Transportation to the regional school 100% reimbursed.

19. **Do we financially obligate the town if we vote yes, on the Region?**

No! An affirmative vote in all towns gives birth to a Regional School District. It would authorize the immediate establishment of a Regional School District Committee, who would make a detailed plan for the proposed school and curriculum;

The committee would then notify the towns of the cost of the school and each town would have 30 days in which to veto the proposed plan: (See Section 16 (d) of Chapter 71)

In case of veto the committee would be forced to reduce the cost until it met approval of all towns.

20. **What use will be made of the present Deerfield High School Buildings?**

It is contemplated to utilize the existing facilities as a Junior High, composed of the seventh and eighth grades.

21. **Why is a Junior High considered educationally superior to a straight elementary 7th and 8th grade?**

Because, the students receive the benefits of departmentalized curriculum, wherein the teachers specialize in seperate courses such as; English, Mathematics and Science. Furthermore, it is able to offer students the advantages of Laboratory facilities in Science and a Physical Education program in excellent gymnasium facilities.

22. **What additional construction is planned?**

In order to provide for a normal enrollment of 600, it is planned to construct ten additional all purpose classrooms and ten special purpose rooms to include shops, laboratories, and Household Arts and Commercial Suites.

23. **Will such a School plant adequately house an enrollment in excess of 600 students?**

Yes. It is planned for a normal enrollment of 600, but could easily house 700 without undue crowding.

24. **How many Regional Districts are there in Commonwealth of Massachusetts?**

As of September 1, 1954, there were 15 Districts, 12 of which were formed in the past 18 months. There are at present 10 more in the planning stage.

25. **Who controls and pays for student transportation to the Regional School?**

Member towns will provide their own transportation to the Regional School, the cost of which will be 100% reimbursed to each member town by the Commonwealth.

26. **Will the Regional School Committee have any jurisdiction ever local elementary schools in member towns?**

No. The member towns own school committees will continue to control local schools.

CHAPTER 71 OF THE GENERAL LAWS

Section 16 - 16I inclusive

SECTION 16. A regional school district established under the provisions of the preceding section shall be a body politic and corporate with all the powers and duties conferred by law upon school committees, and with the following additional powers and duties:

(a) To adopt a name and a corporate seal.

(b) To sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and upon the same conditions that a town may sue or be sued.

(c) To acquire property within the towns comprising the district under the provisions of chapter seventy-nine and section fourteen of chapter forty for the purposes of the district, and to construct, reconstruct, add to, equip, organize and operate a school or schools for the benefit of the towns comprising the district, and to make any necessary contracts in relation thereto.

(d) To incur debt for the purpose of acquiring land and constructing, reconstructing, adding to, and equipping a school building or buildings for a term not exceeding twenty years; provided, however, that any indebtedness so incurred shall not exceed an amount approved b ythe emergency finance board; and provided, further, that no debt may be incurred until the expiration of thirty days from the date said debt was authorized by the district committee; and prior to the expiration of said period any member town of the regional school district may call a town meeting for the purpose of expressing disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the district committee, and if at such meeting a majority of the voters present and voting thereon express disapproval of the amount authorized by the district committee, the said debt shall not be incurred and the district school committee shall thereupon prepare an alernative proposal and a new or revised authorization to incur debt.

(e) To issue bonds and notes in the name and upon the full faith and credit of said district; said bonds or notes shall be signed by the chairman and treasurer of the district committee and each issue of bonds or notes shall be a separate loan.

(f) To receive and disburse funds for any district purpose.

(g) To incur temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from member towns.

(h) To assess member towns for any expenses of the district.

(i) To receive any grants or gifts for the purposes of the regional district school or schools.

(j) To engage legal counsel

(k) To submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of such school or schools as may be deemed necessary by the district school committee or by the selectmen of any member town.

(l) To employ a superintendent of schools who may also be a superintendent of one or more of the towns comprising said district, and said superintendent shall have all the powers and duties imposed upon school superintendents by law.

(m) To adopt an annual operating and maintenance budget, not later than December first.

SECTION 16A. The powers, duties and liabilities of a regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee organized in accordance with the agreement. The committee shall choose a chairman by ballot from its membership. It shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer who may be the same person, but who need not be members of said committee. The treasurer shall receive and take charge of all money belonging to the district and shall pay any bill of the district which shall have been approved by the committee. The treasurer may, by vote of said committee, be compensated for his services. The treasurer of said district shall be subject to the provisions of sections thirty-five, fifty-two and one hundred and nine A of chapter forty-one, to the extent applicable.

SECTION 16B. The regional district school committee shall annually determine the amounts necessary to be raised to maintain and operate the district school or schools during the ensuing calendar year, and the amounts required for payment of debt and interest incurred by the district which will be due in the said year, and shall apportion the amount so determined among the several towns in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The amounts so apportioned for each town shall, prior to December thirty-first in each year, be certified by the regional district treasurer to the treasurers of the several towns. Each town shall, at the next annual town meeting, appropriate the amounts so certified, and in case any such town fails to pay over to the treasurer of said districts the amount of its opportionment within the time specified in said agreement for such payment, the district school committee shall invoke the provisions of section thirty-four. The town treasurer shall pay the amount so appropriated or any amount ordered to be raised by court decree to said district at the time or times specified in the agreement.

SECTION 16C. The regional school district shall be subject to all laws pertaining to school transportation; and when the agreement provides for the furnishing of transportation by the regional school district, the commonwealth shall reimburse such district to the full extent of the amounts expended for such transportation, except that no such reimbursement shall be made for transportation of any pupil who resides less than one and one half miles, measured by a commonly traveled route, from the district school which he attends. The state treasurer shall annually, on or before November twentieth, pay to the regional school districts from the proceeds of the tax on incomes, which shall be available therefor, subject to appropriation, the sums required for such reimbursement and approved by the commissioner of education. There shall be allocated from the proceeds of the tax on incomes such sums as said commissioner shall certify as necessary for the payment of such reimbursement.

SECTION 16D. Each town comprising the regional school district shall continue to receive state aid for educational purposes in the amount to which it would be entitled if such district had not been formed; and such regional school district shall be entitled to receive state aid for construction of regional schools.

SECTION 16E. The director of accounts in the department of corporations and taxation shall annually cause an audit to be made of the accounts of the regional district school committee, and for this purpose he, and his duly accredited agents, shall have access to all necessary papers, books and records. Upon the completion of each audit, a report thereon shall be made to the chairman of the district committee, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the chairman of the selectmen and of the school committee of each town which is a member of the district. The director shall apportion the cost among the several towns which are members of the district on the basis provided by section fourteen B, and submit the amounts of each apportionment to the state treasurer, who shall issue his warrant requiring the assessors of the towns which are members of the district to assess a tax to the amount of the expense, and such amounts shall be collected and paid to the state treasurer as provided by section twenty of chapter fifty-nine.

SECTION 16F. The regional school district shall maintain a contributory retirement system for non-teaching employees of the district, subject in all respects to the applicable provisions of chapter thirty-two.

SECTION 16G. No town in a regional school district shall be liable for any obligation imposed on any other town in said district by authority of sections fourteen to sixteen I, inclusive, or of any agreement thereunder, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 16H. The members of the aforesaid emergency finance board when acting under said sections shall receive from the commonwealth compensation to the same extent as provided under chapter three hundred and sixty-six of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, as amended, including chapter seventy-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-five.

SECTION 16I. If any provision of said sections, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the remainder of said sections and the application of such provisions to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

AGREEMENT

For a regional school district for the towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereinafter referred to as member towns.

(Bold type is a condensed version of the entire section.)

SECTION I.

THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Section I

The Regional District School Committee shall consist of nine members; two each from Conway, Sunderland and Whately and three from Deerfield.

(A) **Composition**

The regional district school committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, shall consist of nine members: three from the town of Deerfield, two from the town of Conway, two from the town of Sunderland, and two from the town of Whately. As hereinafter provided, four of the nine members shall be appointed by the local school committees and five shall be elected by the annual town elections.

(B) **Appointed Members**

Immediately after each annual town election, commencing with the annual election next following the establishment of the regional school district, the local school committee of each member town shall appoint from its own membership one member to serve on the Committee for a term of one year.

(C) **Elected Members**

Of the five elected members, there shall be two from the town of Deerfield and one from each of the towns of Conway, Sunderland, and Whately. At the annual town elections next following the establishment of the regional school district, the town of Deerfield shall elect two members to serve on the Committee, of whom one shall serve fora period of two years and one for a period of three years; and the towns of Conway, Sunderland, and Whately shall each elect one member to serve on the Committee, the member from the Town of Conway to serve for one year, the member from the town of Sunderland to serve

for two years, and the member from the town of Whately to serve for three years. Thereafter, at every succeeding annual town election when a member town is required to elect a member, each such town shall elect such member to serve for a term of three years.

(D) Interim Committee

The interim committee shall consist of nine members. Within ten days after the establishment of the regional school district, the local school committee of each member town shall appoint one member and the four members so appointed shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified as provided in section I (B). The moderator of the town of Deerfield shall appoint two members and the moderators of the towns of Conway, Sunderland, and Whately shall each appoint one member and the five members so appointed shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified as provided in section I (C).

(E) Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs among the appointed members, the local school committee of the member town involved shall appoint a member from its own membership to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. If a vacancy occurs among the elected members, the selectmen of the member town involved shall appoint a member to serve until the next annual town election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any.

(F) Organization

Promptly upon the appointment of the initial members, and thereafter upon the annual appointment and election of successors, the Committee shall organize and choose by ballot a chairman from its own membership and appoint a treasurer and a secretary who may be the same person, but who need not be members of the Committee. At such organization meeting or at any other meeting, the Committee shall fix the time and place for regular annual meetings and provide for the calling of special meetings upon notice to all its members, and may choose such other officers as it deems advisable and prescribe their powers and duties.

(G) Powers and Duties

The Committee shall have all the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon school committees by law and conferred and imposed upon it by this agreement, and such other additional powers and duties as are specified in section 16 to 16 I of Chapter seventy-one of the General Laws and any other provisions of general or special law.

(H) Quorum

A majority of the members of the full membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except as otherwise provided in section XI.

SECTION II.

LOCATION OF REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL

Section II

Self-Explanatory

The regional district school shall be located in the town of Deerfield.

SECTION III.

TYPE OF REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL

Section III

This section provides a Junior-Senior High School to include State-aided vocational education.

The regional district school shall be a junior-senior high school consisting of grades 7 through 12, inclusive.

The Committee is hereby authorized to establish and maintain state-aided vocational education, acting as trustees therefor, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 74 of the General Laws and acts amendatory thereto or dependent thereon; if the Committee deems it desirable.

SECTION IV.

APPORTIONMENT AND PAYMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT

Section IV

The cost of construction is shared by the four towns according to the relative value of each town. This is called equalized valuation, and is a figure set up by the Legislature to determine each towns share of County and State expense, State grants for School Building costs, Highways and also the basis for distribution of income tax receipts.

(A) For the purpose of apportioning assessments levied by the district against the member towns, costs shall be divided into two categories: construction costs and operating costs.

(B) Construction costs shall include cost of site, cost of building construction and equipment, cost of plans, architect's fees, consultants' fees, cost of grading, and any other costs which may be incurred to put the building and premises in operating condition, and also interest on indebtedness incurred to meet these outlays.

(C) Operating costs shall include all costs not included in construction costs as defined in section IV (B) but including interest on temporary notes issued by the district in anticipation of revenue.

(D) Payment of construction costs shall be apportioned among the member towns as follows:

Deerfield	53.2%
Conway	9.5%
Sunderland	18.7%
Whately	18.6%

(E) Operating expenses for the first calendar year next following the establishment of the regional school district and for any calendar year thereafter shall be apportioned to the member towns on the basis of their respective enrollments in the regional district school on October 1 of the preceding year. In the event that enrollment in the regional district school has not been accomplished by said October 1, operating expenses shall be

apportioned on the basis of enrollment in grades 6 through 11 of pupils residing in each member town and receiving education at such town's expense as of October 1 of the preceding year; provided, however, that in the first year in which an enrollment in the regional district school has been accomplished a sof October 1, a revised apportionment shall be made on the basis of each town's enrollment in the regional district school as of the said October 1 and any resulting adjustment of such year's operating expenses payable by each town shall be made by debit or credit, as the case may be, on each town's share of the budget for the ensuing calendar year.

(F) The payment for proportionate shares of construction and operating costs of each of the member towns for each year shall be made, upon certification by the District Treasurer as specified in Section XI below, by the respective town treasurers by check payable to the District in three equal installments on the first day of April, August, and December.

SECTION V.

LEASE AND SALE OF BUILDINGS AND SITE

Section V

This section provides for the Town of Deerfield to lease free of charge the Deerfield High School buildings and grounds to the Region, with the exception of the amount of land the new building would actually occupy. It further provides that Deerfield sell the Region that land which will be the site of the new building.

The Town of Deerfield is hereby authorized to lease to the regional school district all the premises and buildings known as the public high school of Deerfield, including the high school building, the vocational agriculture shop building, the Veterans Memorial Gymnasium, and the garage. The lease shall be for a term of twenty years and the term shall not commence sooner than one year after the date of award of the contract for construction of the regional district school and not later than the opening and commencement of operations of said regional district school. The lease shall contain provisions authorizing the regional school district to repair,

improve, alter or remodel any of the leased buildings. There shall be excepted from the lease so much of the land as the selectmen of the Town of Deerfield and the regional district school committee deem necessary for the site of the regional district school. The Town of Deerfield shall receive no rental for this lease. Nothing contained in the lease shall prevent the Town of Deerfield from renewing the lease at the expiration of the lease. The lease shall be on such other terms as may be determined by the selectmen of the Town of Deerfield who shall execute the lease in behalf of the town.

The Town of Deerfield is hereby authorized to sell to the regional school district the land excepted from the lease for the site of the regional district school. The price of the sale of said land shall be one hundred dollars. The Town of Conway shall be assessed twenty dollars; the Town of Sunderland, forty dollars; and the Town of Whately, forty dollars. Within thirty days after the regional district school committee has first incurred debt as provided in section 16 (d) of chapter 71 of the General Laws, the selectmen of the Town of Deerfield shall convey to the regional school district the said land and the regional district school committee shall assess the Towns of Conway, Sunderland, and Whately as provided above, and at their next annual town meetings the said towns shall appropriate the amounts so assessed and the respective town treasurers shall thereupon pay to the regional school district treasurer the amounts so appropriated and the said regional school district treasurer shall pay the one hundred dollars to the treasurer of the Town of Deerfield.

SECTION VI.

TRANSPORTATION

Section VI

Regular daily transportation to the Regional School shall be furnished by each member town. Co-curricular and extra curricular activities requiring transportation, will be furnished by the Regional Committee and shall constitute operating expense.

Each member town, acting through its local school committee, shall be responsible for providing transportation to and from the regional district school once each day in which a regular session thereof is scheduled, to each student thereof

who resides in such town and who would be furnished such transportation if the regional district school were a town school. Such other transportation as the Committee may deem necessary shall be furnished by the regional school district, and the cost thereof shall constitute an operating expense.

SECTION VII.

ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS

Section VII

This section provides for permitting additional towns to join the District by amending the agreement. Such ammendents must be accepted by all the member towns

By an amendment of this agreement adopted under and in accordance with section IX below, any other town or towns may be admitted to the regional school district upon adoption as therein provided of such amendment and upon acceptance by the town or towns seeking admission of the agreement as so amended and also upon compliance with such provisions of law as may be applicable and such terms as may be set forth in such amendment.

SECTION VIII.
SEPARATION

Section VIII

This section provides that any member town withdrawing from the District must pay its share of total building costs and current operating expense and must have the approval of all other member towns.

(A) Any member town may petition to withdraw from the regional school district under terms stipulated in a proposed amendment to the agreement provided (1) that the town seeking to withdraw has paid over to the regional school district any operating costs for which it became liable as a member of the district, and (2) that said town shall remain liable to the district for its share of the indebtedness, other than temporary indebtedness incurred in anticipation of revenue, of the district outstand at the time of such withdrawal, and for interest thereon, to the same extent and in the same manner as though the town had not withdrawn from the district,

except that such liability shall be reduced by any amount which such town has paid over at the time of withdrawal and which has been applied to the payment of such indebtedness or interest.

(B) Said petitioning town shall cease to be a member town if the proposed amendment is approved by the Committee and accepted by the petitioning town and each of the other member towns, acceptance by th petitioning town and by the other member towns to be by majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

(C) Money received by the district from the withdrawing town for payment of funded indebtedness or interest thereon shall be used for this purpose only.

SECTION IX.

AMENDMENTS

Section IX

This section permits the amending of the agreement when 10% of the voters of any member town shall petition for ammendment, or when a majority of the Regional School Committee shall vote for one. Such an ammendment to become effective must first be voted by all the member towns.

This agreement may be amended from time to time in the manner hereinafter provided, but no such amendment shall be made which shall substantially impair the rights of the holders of any bonds o rnotes or other indebtedness of the district then outstanding, or the rights of the district to procure the means for payment thereof, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the admission of a new town or towns to the district and the reapportionment accordingly of that part of the costs of land acquisition and construction represented by bonds or notes of the district then outstanding and of interest thereon. A proposal for amendment may be initiated by a signed petition bearing the signatures of 10 per cent of the registered voters of any one of the member towns or by a majority of all the members of the regional district school committee. Any such proposal for amendment shall be presented to the secretary of the Committee who shall mail or deliver a notice in writing to the Board of Select-

men of each of the member towns that a proposal to amend this agreement has been received and shall enclose a copy of such proposal (without the signatures in the case of a proposal by petition). The selectmen in each member town shall include in the warrant for the next annual or a special town meeting called for the purpose an article stating the proposal or the substance thereof. Such amendment shall take effect upon its acceptance by each of the member towns in the manner hereinabove provided.

SECTION X.

INCURRING OF DEBT

Section X

This section insures the member towns that no debt will be incurred by voting "YES", without their having a chance to veto the proposed debt.

Within two days after the date on which the Committee authorizes the incurring of debt, other than temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from member towns, the Committee shall cause written notice of the date of said authorization, the sum authorized, and the general purpose or purposes for authorizing such debt, to be mailed by registered mail to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of each member town at his last known permanent address in such town.

SECTION XI.

BUDGET

Section XI

Each years Regional School budget will be made public, submitted to the Finance Board of Selectmen of each member town and brought before the townspeople of each member town at a public hearing before a final budget is adopted by the Committee.

Annually, on or before November 1, the Committee shall prepare a tentative operating budget for the ensuing calendar year, attaching thereto provision for any installment of principal or interest to become due in such year on any bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the District. Copies of the budget shall be mailed to the Chairman of the Finance or Advisory Committee of each member town; or, if there is no Finance or Advisory Committee in a member town, to the chairman of the Board of Selectmen of such town. Not later than November 15, the members of the Committee from each member town shall hold a public hearing in such town, at which they shall present the regional school district budget and shall answer any reasonable inquiries with respect thereto. On or before December 1 the Committee shall adopt a final budget with such modification in their tentative budget as they may consider desirable. Two thirds of the membership of the full Committee shall constitute a quorum for the adoption of the operating budget and the said budget shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the membership of the full Committee. Prior to December 31 of each year the treasurer of the Committee shall certify to the treasurer of each member town its share of such budget and its share of any installment of prinicpal or interest to become due in the ensuing year on any bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the District.

SECTION XII.
STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS OUTSIDE THE REGION

Section XII

Self-Explanatory

Member towns in which reside students who attend high school outside the district on a tuition basis at the time the regional district school is opened may continue on a tuition basis such of those students who in ordinary course would be graduated within two years from the time the regional district school is opened.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed, approved, and accepted as of the 7th day of September 1954.

Regional School District Planning Board for the Town of Conway

By Erwin T. Weston
Lyman W, Graves
Raymond S. Totman

Regional School District Planning Board for the Town of Deerfield

By George E. Bell, Jr.
William E. Sodoski

Regional School District Planning Board for the Town of Sunderland

By William L. Hubbard
Joseph R. Sadowski
Clarence F. Clark

Regional School District Planning Board for the Town of Whately

By Constance G. Rodriguez
F. Lyndon Scott
Charles A. Pielock

Approved:
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education

By John J. Desmond, Jr.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Emergency Finance Board

By Edward S. Zelazo
George E. Lane
Salvatore E. Aloisi
Herman B. Dine

At the dedication ceremonies of the Wachussetts Regional High School September 1, 1954, Gov Christian A. Herter in speaking of the fifteen Regional School Districts already formed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, said,

"Educators tells us that both quality and economy in education can be obtained only in schools of adequate size. These districts (15) have eliminated two High Schools of less than 50 pupils, eleven between 51 and 100 pupils, nine between 101 and 200 pupils, three between 201 and 500 pupils and have given a voice in the High School education of their children to citizens of 22 towns which previously had not maintained high schools and had no representation on the school committees in charge of their children's high schools."

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